

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 10, 2003, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Thimesch - Excused

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Kenlon Johannes, Executive Officer, Kansas Soybean Association
Janet McPherson, Assistant Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau (written only)
Greg Krissek, Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association (written only)

Others attending: See attached list

Minutes of the February 24 meeting were distributed. Members were asked to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to 5:00 p.m. March 12, or the minutes will be considered approved as presented.

Hearing and action on SCR 1604 - Concurrent Resolution urging the president and congress of the United States to promote the use of ethanol and biodiesel.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SCR 1604**. Raney Gilliland reviewed the resolution urging the president and congress of the United States to promote the use of ethanol and biodiesel.

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SCR 1604** and provided information on the importance of ethanol and biodiesel to Kansas agriculture. Increasing the use of biofuels adds to on-farm revenue, increases high-skilled employment, improves the balance of trade and positively affects our state and the nation's bottom line. He also noted the numerous environmental benefits of increased biofuel use. (Attachment 1)

Kenlon Johannes, Executive Officer, Kansas Soybean Association, testified in support of **SCR 1604**. KSA leaders will be going to Washington this month to urge our congressional delegation to pass the Renewable Fuels Standard, Biodiesel Tax Incentive, EPACT Reform, CMAQ reform for biodiesel, and other measures to help the biodiesel industry compete against oil subsidies. KSA supports this resolution as an additional step in a cooperative national, state and private industry effort to decrease our dependence on imported petroleum, benefit our general economy and farm economy, and improve our air quality. A news release from the National Biodiesel Board detailing the federal policy issues for biodiesel this year is included with his testimony. (Attachment 2)

Janet McPherson, Assistant Director, Governmental Relations, Kansas Farm Bureau, submitted written testimony in support of **SCR 1604**. She reported that Kansas Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policies strongly advocate expanding production and use of renewable fuels. Farm Bureau advocates a national policy that reduces dependence on foreign sources of energy, with a goal of self-sufficiency. Farm Bureau supports a federal Renewable Fuels Standard. (Attachment 3)

Greg Krissek, on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association and Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association, provided written testimony in support of **SCR 1604** encouraging the federal government to expand the use of ethanol and biodiesel in our fuel supply. He noted that these agriculturally based renewable fuels provide environmental, energy independence, and economic development benefits. (Attachment 4)

As there were no opponents, Chairman Johnson closed the hearing and opened discussion on **SCR 1604**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE at 3:30 p.m. on March 10, 2003, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Representative Gatewood moved to recommend SCR 1604 favorable for adoption and, because the resolution is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Dahl, the motion carried.

Hearing and action on SB 135 - Inspection not required for buffalo or domesticated deer.

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **SB 135**. Raney Gilliland explained that this bill would modify the definition of the term "livestock" to exclude from the term buffalo or domesticated deer slaughtered for sport or recreational purposes. He noted that this bill was similar to **HB 2188** heard in committee on February 17, 2003.

Greg Foley, Assistant Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture, appeared in support of **SB 135** to remove buffalo and captive deer from the definition of "livestock" when they are slaughtered for sport or recreational purposes. The buffalo producer who wants his animals slaughtered under full inspection so he can sell the final product may still do so. He said the renewed interest in sport hunting of buffalo prompted the need for this change in existing law. (Attachment 5)

As there were no other conferees, the hearing on **SB 135** was closed. Chairman Johnson opened the floor for discussion.

Representative Powell moved to recommend SB 135 favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Ostmeyer.

Representative Dahl offered a substitute motion to recommend SB 135 favorable for passage and, because the bill is of a noncontroversial nature, be placed on the consent calendar. Seconded by Representative Powell, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2003.